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ABSTRACT

Despite the prolific amount of bibliographical sources on the Indians of the United States, there is little or no bibliographic control of the subject. The bibliographical sources existing on the subject of Indians of the United States do not constitute bibliographic control, but could be used in setting up a system for the control of these materials. The study was made from a review of the literature and an examination of existing bibliographical sources for materials on the Indians of the United States. A list of such sources is included. (Author/LS)

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AN APPROACH TO BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL OF MATERIALS RELATING TO INDIANS OF THE UNITED STATES

A Research Project

Submitted to The

Graduate Department of Library and Information Sciences

Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements of the

Master of Library Science Degree

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by

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to determine the extent of bibliographic control of materials relating to the Indians of the United States. The study was made from a review of the literature and an examination of existing bibliographical sources for materials on the Indians of the United States.

It seems evident, despite the prolific amount of bibliographical sources on the Indians of the United States, there is little or no bibliographic control of the subject. The bibliographical sources existing on the subject of Indians of the United States do not constitute bibliographic control, but could be used in setting up a system for the control of these materials.

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

Background

There are many approaches to materials on the Indians of the United States. Included in the types of bibliographical sources are library card catalogs, indexes to periodical literature, indexes to government publications, bibliographies and guides, and dissertations and theses in anthropology and history.[1] Although there is an abundance of sources, there appears to be little or no system in their use.

Problem Statement

The problem is the bibliographic control of materials relating to the Indians of the United States. Although there are several indexing sources for these materials and for different areas within these materials, none of these sources offers complete bibliographic control. Many of the sources are overlapping. This study will examine what has been done toward bibliographic control of these materials and make proposals for an overall program of control and how it could be implemented.

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[1] Bernard L. Fontana, "The Indians of North America: Bibliographical Sources" (Tucson: University of Arizona, 1972), p. 1-17. (Mimeographed.)

Approach to the Problem

This paper will first consider bibliographic control--what it is, how it is achieved. Examined next will be what has been done in the bibliographic control of materials on the American Indians. These bibliographical sources will be examined for completeness, coverage, areas included. These findings will be summarized. Proposals will be made for a program of bibliographic control of these materials and suggestions will be made for the implementation of such a program.

Delimitation of the Problem

This paper will examine sources only as they apply to the Indians of the United States. Although some of these sources may also apply to other Indians, no attempt will be made to establish control of materials relating to the Indians of Central America, Indians of South America, or other Indians of North America.

Because of the abundance of bibliographical sources, it is not within the scope of this paper to cover all of them. An attempt has been made to select sources that are representative of the types of materials covered and the types of sources available.

Definitions

Perfect bibliographic control implies "a complete record of the existence and location of every book, every document, every article, even every written thought."[1] The probabilities are slim that such a goal could ever be met. This paper will view biblio-

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[1]Robert B. Downs and Frances B. Jenkins, eds., Bibliography: Current State and Future Trends (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1967), p. 1.

graphic control as the identification, so far as possible, of the material needed to meet a research goal. The goal, as developed in this paper, will be the identification of materials relating to the Indians of the United States.

The materials considered in this study will be books, periodicals, government documents, and duplicated materials. Not included as materials are manuscripts and audio-visual materials.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Bibliographic Control

Background

Although much has been written on "bibliographic control," most of the material pertains either generally to the compiling of bibliographies or specifically to the institution of a particular bibliographic program. Little of what has been written applies generally to bibliographic control.

The problem of bibliographic control has probably existed for as long as writing has existed. Babylonians had catalogs of cuneiform tablets. Egyptians made lists of papyri. The number of bibliographical listings increased during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. It appeared that bibliographers could handle the output until the invention of typography in the fifteenth century, when printed materials began to rapidly multiply.[1]

Until the eighteenth century it was generally taken for granted that "a single human brain could comprehend and hold the entire existing knowledge."[2] As knowledge expanded and was divided

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[1] Ibid., p. 2.

[2] Ibid.

into smaller units and specialties, man's learning and experience was gradually shifted to recorded forms such as books, journals, film, and sound recordings. Through the use of the recorded form, a degree of control could be maintained over the rapid spread of knowledge.[1]

Goals

Since printing began, men have dreamed of universal bibliographies which would show a record of all books in existence. The primary goal in bibliographic control is "to assist an enquirer in discovering the existence or determining the identity of books or other documentary material which may be of interest to him."[2] Through effective bibliographic control, the "best textual means" are available to direct the researcher to the material he needs to read or study to reach his goal.[3]

Elements included

Included in bibliographic control are elements of both organization and control. Organization is a structural notion--that which things have or are given. Control is more functional--the power people have or wield over things. Although the two ideas are separate and distinct in theory, actually, control cannot be talked

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[1] Ibid.

[2] A. M. Lewin Robinson, Systematic Bibliography: A Practical Guide to the Work of Compilation (Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1966), p. 12.

[3] Patrick Wilson, Two Kinds of Power: An Essay on Bibliographical Control (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1968), p. 22.

of without also talking of organization. "One of the chief ways in which we control things is by taking advantage of the organization they exhibit."[1]

Organization

Regardless of the subject being considered, several decisions need to be made concerning its organization. Among the primary decisions that need to be made are the limitations of the field; whether the work is to be selective or comprehensive; the forms of material that are to be included; the form of entry that is to be used.[2] These decisions will affect the type of bibliographic work done, whether it will be kept current, and the amount of time it will take.

Several essential items should be considered in the organization. The work should be one that will be of practical value. The arrangement should be useful to the public for which it is intended. The work should be accurate, and clarity should be of importance. Care in what is done and consideration for these points will make the work effective and usable.[3] Effective bibliographic control makes possible the "discovery of the valuable in the mass of the mostly worthless or uninteresting."[4]

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[1] Ibid., p. 3.

[2] Robinson, Systematic Bibliography, p. 17.

[3] Ibid., p. 67.

[4] Wilson, Two Kinds of Power, p. 1.

Computer use

The use of the computer has aided in the improvement of bibliographic publication. Particularly helpful has been its speed, inexpensiveness, and ability to be comprehensive while still being selective.[1] Because of the capacity of the computer for easily producing and disseminating bibliographic information, it can be very helpful in producing and maintaining bibliographic control.[2] One possible use of magnetic computer tapes, applicable to bibliographic control, is to record the bibliographic work, keep it current, and edit and search the work to create smaller, more specialized units.[3]

Coordination

An obvious need in the field of bibliography is coordination.[4] Specific assignments can be given to particular libraries or groups. Working together they can form a comprehensive unit for bibliographic control.[5]

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[1] Werner W. Clapp, The Future of the Research Library (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1967), p. 9.

[2] Ibid., p. 52.

[3] Max V. Mathews and W. Stanley Brown, "Research Libraries and the New Technology," in On Research Libraries, Statement and Recommendations, Committee on Research Libraries, American Council of Learned Societies (Cambridge: M. I. T. Press, 1967), p. 73.

[4] Edwin E. Williams, "Bibliographical Control and Physical Dissemination," in On Research Libraries, Statement and Recommendations, Committee on Research Libraries, American Council of Learned Societies (Cambridge: M. I. T. Press, 1967), p. 29.

[5] Clapp, Future of the Research Library, p. 54.

Mormon Americana.--An example of cooperation in an effort to get better bibliographic control of materials is the Mormon Americana. This is a cooperative effort that was started by the Historian's Office of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Utah State Historical Society, and Brigham Young University in an effort to have better bibliographic control of materials relating to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Additional groups now cooperating include the Salt Lake City (Utah) Public Library, the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Princeton University.[1]

Each cooperating institution is assigned one or more specific indexing or abstracting service, periodical, newspaper or historical quarterly to search. Bibliographical information on books, periodicals and book reviews is recorded on cards and sent to Brigham Young University, where it is checked for duplication, compiled, and published bi-monthly. This cooperative effort was set up to give access to current materials published on the Church.[2]

Approaches to Bibliographic Information on Indians of the United States

Among the approaches to bibliographic information on Indians of the United States are general indexing and abstracting services and catalogs which contain topics on these Indians; indexing and abstracting services and catalogs specifically on Indians or Indians

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[1] Chad Flake, private interview held at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, August 1973.

[2] Ibid.

of the United States; special publications and bibliographies on the Indians of the United States or subgroups of these Indians. Bibliographic control would probably not be adequate if only one approach is taken.

The Index to Literature on the American Indian, 1970, appeared in 1972. At the request of S. Lyman Tyler, Director, American West Center, University of Utah, a comparison was made to determine what duplication existed. Mary Jane Hair, Social Sciences Librarian, University of Utah, and her associates, searched sixty-eight indexes and indexing services and compared the results with the Index to Literature on the American Indian, 1970. It was found that for the same time period, not more than 40 per cent of what appears in this index was duplicated in the survey of periodical indexes.[1] One possible reason for this difference might be variances in indexing terms. For example, an article on the incidence of tuberculosis among the Navajos might be indexed under tuberculosis in a medical index but under Navajos in the Index to Literature on the American Indian, 1970

General approaches

The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature[2].--One of the most popular general indexes in America is The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (Readers' Guide). About 125 magazines of

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[1] S. Lyman Tyler, private interview held at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 7, 1973.

[2] A list of the bibliographical sources discussed in this paper appears in the appendix.

general interest are indexed. The main work is issued twice a month and is often the only guide to current material.[1] Readers' Guide indexes material under "Indians of North America - Subject," such as "Indians of North America - Art" and other such headings as "Dances," "Education," and also directly under the Indian tribes.[2]

Educational Research Information Center (ERIC).--Relevant documents on research in problems of education are acquired, selected, abstracted, and indexed. The Center stores full texts of documents on microfilm, announces all new acquisitions, and makes copies available at nominal cost. This source is particularly valuable for material on Indian education.[3] A more specific approach from ERIC is American Indian Education: A Selected Bibliography, jointly issued by the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) and the Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools (CRESS).[4]

Dissertation Abstracts.--This is a compilation of abstracts of doctoral dissertations submitted to University Microfilms, Inc., by cooperating universities. The dissertations themselves are microfilmed and available for purchase from University Microfilms.

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[1] William A. Katz, Introduction to Reference Work, Vol. I: Basic Information Sources (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1969), p. 105-6.

[2] Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, March 1971-February 1972 (New York: H. W. Wilson, 1972), p. 569.

[3] Williams, "Bibliographical Control," p. 31-32.

[4] American Indian Bibliography: A Selected Bibliography. Supplement No. 2 (Las Cruces: New Mexico State University for ERIC and CRESS, 1971), p. i.

The main list is arranged alphabetically by subject field and then by university. Each issue includes a subject index and an author index.[1] A subject approach is thus provided for the dissertations.

Monthly Catalog.--The Monthly Catalog of the United States Government Publications (Monthly Catalog) provides a subject approach to publications issued by all branches of the government, including both the Congressional and the department and bureau publications. An annual index is provided in each volume.[2] There are also two publications issued by the Department of the Interior which could aid in obtaining material on the Indians of the United States. These are the Dictionary Catalogue of the Department Library, issued in thirty-seven volumes, and the Biographical and historical Index of American Indians and Persons Involved in Indian Affairs, issued in eight volumes.[3]

Specific approaches

The American Indian in Graduate Studies.--Frederick J. Dockstader's work, The American Indian in Graduate Studies: A Bibliography of Theses and Dissertations, provides a specific approach to theses from all academic fields appearing from 1890 to 1955 on the American Indian. It contains a subject index.[4]

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[1] Constance M. Winchell, Guide to Reference Books, 8th ed. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1967), p. 164-65.

[2] Ibid., p. 157.

[3] Fontana, "Indians of North America," p. 3-6.

[4] Winchell, Guide to Reference Books, p. 364.

Bibliography of the Indians of the Americas.--This is a card catalog bibliography at the Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. This bibliography contains cards for those things in the Library of Congress which are on Indians of the Americas. These cards are filed alphabetically by author and added entries. Because the Library of Congress cards are on standing order, the bibliography is still accumulating.[1]

Index to Literature on the American Indian.--In this publication the Indian Historian Press is attempting to provide a ready index to literature on the American Indian, year by year.[2] For the 1970 issue, sixty-three subject areas were chosen.[3] A total of 257 periodicals were searched.[4] This provides a specialized approach to materials not found in the general indexing services.

Ethnographic Bibliography of North America.--This bibliography, done by George Peter Murdock, is an outgrowth of the Human Relations Area Files. It is a selective, classified bibliography--organized by areas and by cultural groups within each area--of printed materials on primitive and historical cultures in North America.[5]

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[1]Gloria Jenson, private interview held at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, August 3, 1973.

[2]Index to Literature on the American Indian, 1970 (n. p.: Indian Historian Press, 1972), p. v.

[3]Ibid., p. vii.

[4]Ibid., p. ix.

[5]Winchell, Guide to Reference Books, p. 366.

Special publications and bibliographies

Bibliographies and guides.--These guides and bibliographies on the Indians of the United States are more specific than the ones previously discussed. There is an abundance of subject bibliographies, many of which have not been published. Some examples are: Navajo Bibliography by David M. Brugge, J. Lee Correll, and Editha L. Watson; Reference Encyclopedia of the American Indian, edited by Bernard Klein and Daniel Icolari; and The Ute People: A Bibliographical Checklist by S. Lyman Tyler.[1]

There are also guides for special age groups, topics, and educational guides put out by some of the state education departments. An example of this is Books about Indians, issued by the Department of Education of the State of Nevada.

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[1]Fontana, "Indians of North America," p. 7-13.

CHAPTER III

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Bibliographic control has been viewed as the identification, to the greatest extent possible, of material needed to meet a research goal. Although there is abundant material available on the Indians of the United States and there are different bibliographic systems for approaching this material, there is no system of bibliographic control for an overall coverage of the material. A system of bibliographic control of the material relating to the Indians of the United States would facilitate research by making it quicker, easier and more complete.

Recommendations

It is recommended that an attempt be made to achieve bibliographic control of the materials relating to the Indians of the United States. If successful, the bibliographic control of these materials would facilitate research and provide access to and control of these materials.

Bibliographic control should be approached through a coordinated effort. Cooperation in this attempt would mean that the burden would not rest on any one institution. Those most interested could work together to make it as complete as possible.

In setting up such a program, representatives of the cooperating institutions should determine the sources to be covered in order to provide bibliographic control of the materials relating to the Indians of the United States. These sources should be distributed among the cooperating institutions, providing for complete coverage. The bibliographic form and information sought should be consistent. The coordinating institution will be in charge of gathering the material, checking entries for completeness and for duplication, and putting the information in a usable form that can be made available to others.

To provide the most complete coverage possible, an attempt should be made to adequately cover the four main types of materials considered in this study. These are books, periodicals, government documents, and duplicated materials.

The "Bibliography of the Indians of the Americas," found at Brigham Young University, should be searched to cover books. In addition, the Subject Catalog of the Library of Congress and Murdock's Ethnographic Bibliography of North America should be searched. It would also be helpful to look at the book reviews that appear in historical journals. These book reviews would serve as a check on other sources and also uncover local books that might not be covered in the national bibliographies.

To provide coverage of periodicals, general periodical indexes such as Readers' Guide should be searched. If continued, the Index to Literature on the American Indian would be very valuable as it indexes the magazines directly on topics relating to the Indians.

Some historical quarterlies list by subject periodical articles that are of interest to the coverage of the quarterly.

The Monthly Catalog would be the best source for government documents, covering those documents printed by the Government Printing Office. Some of the departmental catalogs would also be helpful.

Complete coverage of duplicated materials would be a little more difficult. Among the approaches to these materials are ERIC, Dissertation Abstracts, and Dockstader's The American Indian in Graduate Studies: A Bibliography of Theses and Dissertations.

Although they have not been included in this study, it might be felt that bibliographic control of this area would not be complete without including manuscripts. These would not appear in the usual bibliographies or in indexing sources. The best approach would be through guides to manuscript collections.

Two things should be kept in mind. Care should be taken to include only materials on the Indians of the United States when the index or source has a wider coverage. It should also be remembered that this study is not a statement of complete bibliographic control. It is only a suggestion as to items that could be included in the coverage.

It is recommended that an investigation be made into the computerization of the material gathered. It would be easier to make additions and corrections. Complete and up-to-date copies could quickly be made. Also, when so identified, special lists and bibliographies could be drawn from the computerized material.

Recommendations for Further Research

It is suggested that contact be made with some of the institutions such as Brigham Young University, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Utah to ascertain what is currently being done in these institutions. Private organizations and Indian schools should also be contacted for information.

This is only a partial list of bibliographic sources on the Indians of the United States. Before a program of bibliographic control is begun, a more complete list should be made and used.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

LIST OF BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

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